

REMARKS

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed in view of the Office Action dated 8 September 2004. Responsive to that Office Action, Claim 10 is now canceled and Claims 1-2 amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that with such amendment of Claims, there is a further clarification of their recitations.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable in view of the Iga reference. In setting forth this rejection, the Examiner referred to various sections of the reference's Disclosure to correlate certain of Iga's features with those recited in the claims.

As newly-amended independent Claim 1 now more clearly recites, Applicant's method is one which not only enables updating of a particular information apparatus' firmware via e-mail, but one which enables such updating in a highly secure and safeguarded manner. As Claim 1 also now more clearly recites, the method includes among its combination of features that of providing an "update program ... attached to an e-mail sent to the information apparatus," and of discriminating the e-mail's "content type," "prior to reading" that e-mail. This is carried out "responsive to an update mode of the information apparatus being enabled," as the Claim recites, and further processing of the e-mail is carried out "responsive to a match in filename indicated by the content type discrimination of the e-mail with a file required for update." Where a suitable

match in filename is found, the attached update program file is “examined using a check sum” for an indication of “correct transmission” before being executed for update operation, as also recited by Claim 1.

The full combination of these and other clearly recited features is nowhere disclosed by the cited Iga reference. While the reference does disclose the use of electronic mail by a system operator to carry out various control measures upon a network-connected printer, the reference actually teaches away from Applicant’s claimed method in a number of notable respects. Perhaps most apparent is that the electronic mail transmitted by the operator in Iga’s disclosed method is read without first discriminating a “content type of the e-mail ... prior to reading,” as Applicant’s Claim 1 now more clearly recites. While Iga does provide for a password check before actually executing the control operation passed through the given electronic mail, the password itself is necessarily retrieved by reading the electronic mail. Iga very specifically prescribes this “password” to be contained “in” none other than the mail text,” (section 0048 lines 18-20). This flatly precludes any discrimination of “content type” “prior to” actually “reading” the e-mail. The reference thus also precludes any further processing in a manner “responsive to a match in filename indicated by ... [that] content type discrimination ... with a file required for the update,” as Claim 1 further recites.

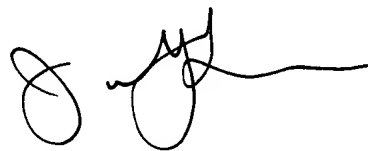
Having so prescribed the electronic mail’s requisite reading to carry out the password-check, Iga prescribes no further check or examination of a firmware

update file to be executed. Indeed, the update or other control command contained with the password within the text body of Iga's electronic e-mail message is immediately executed without any such "examination using a check sum" to first determine an "indication" of "correct transmission," as Claim 1 also now more clearly recites.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that even when considered in combination with the other references cited by the Examiner, Iga fails to disclose the unique combination of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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